

White Bird adds legal service board

Agency explores feasibility of student lawyers, legal co-op



Emerald graphic

A Clients' Advocacy and Advisory Council has been added to the White Bird Legal Department to give clients and ex-clients the opportunity to voice opinions on the legal services the agency provides.

The clients' council, which is composed of seven members of the community, will act as an advisory board to White Bird's para-legal staff.

The body is also researching new programs to provide more efficient legal services to clients.

Council coordinator Nina Rapisarda says the new board is exploring the possibility of setting up a legal co-op. The co-op would consist of a group of people, such as a neighborhood organization, who would pay a set fee every year to hire an attorney to take care of many of their legal needs.

An internship program with third-year law students from the University is another program being explored.

The students would serve as assistants to one of the 32 attorneys on the White Bird panel and assist with White Bird's Volunteer Attorney Night.

Volunteer Attorney Night is a free service provided by one of three White Bird supervising attorneys one night each week to people needing legal advice.

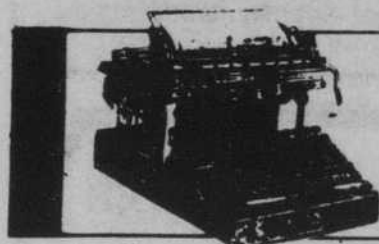
With the help of student interns, White Bird could potentially provide that service more than once a week, Rapisarda says.

Two of the three people on White Bird's para-legal staff, Nina Rapisarda and Greg Perkins, work with information and referral for White Bird Clients. They handle people of all income levels with either civil or criminal cases.

There is no charge for referral services and anyone who is referred to an attorney on the White Bird panel will be charged according to their ability to pay.

The third member of their staff, Helene Bernath, works as a Lane County jail liaison. She assists 10 to 15 inmates and their families with jail and community services and acts as a liaison between an inmate and their attorney.

The White Bird legal department is open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



jock hatfield

a typewriter warmed in hell

The Christmas season is a time for good tidings and suicide. With this in mind, the National Suicide foundation, in conjunction with Ladies Home Journal, will be holding a creative suicide contest.

Prizes will be awarded for soliloquies delivered while committing suicide, best suicide theme and best suicide committed with a

Christmas tree ornament.

Separate prizes will be awarded for suicide notes written on the theme "How I Spent My Christmas."

"It was between this and how to make baskets out of old greeting cards," said a spokesman for the Journal.

The magazine says the suicide

contest winner will be eligible for listing in the Great Suicides of America Joke Book, along with Hitler, Hemingway, and Alas Ferguson (pictured at right), who committed suicide with an umbrella.

Judges are hopeful national personalities will join in the contest, to get in the spirit of the season.



Alas Ferguson



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